The licensing of jaggery tapping.

103 Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—(a) Now that the license fee for jaggery tapping is abolished, will the Government be pleased to state why the licensing for jaggery tapping is retained;

(b) in view of the serious complaints put forward before this House against the subordinate officers of the Excise Department, and in view also of the fact that the Excise Superintendent is totally helpless and unable to find out these misdemeanours of his subordinates and to punish the delinquents, does the Government consider this licensing of jaggery tapping is giving a handle of oppression to the subordinate Excise Officers without a corresponding guarantee of good conduct on their part from the Excise Superintendent;

(c) in view of the fact that it is not prevalent in the neighbouring British parts, and since it is seen that it is a needless anachronism, since the fee is already abolished, and since its retention is likely to harass the poor jaggery tappers in exercise of their profession and thereby discourage this home industry, will the Government be pleased to take immediate steps to abolish this system of licensing of jaggery tapping?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Mainly as a check over production of illicit liquor.

(b) No. The Government do not think so.

(c) It is neither a needless anachronism nor is it harassing the jaggery tappers. The Government do not for the present propose to abolish the system.

The number of trees licensed for tapping in 1101.

104. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Excise Department be pleased to inform.—

(1) the number of trees licensed for tapping in 1101, and of these, how many were licensed for (a) fermented toddy (b) jaggery toddy and (c) bakery; and of these, how many were cocoanut trees, palmyrahs and sagos;

(2) whether the trees tapped for fermented toddy in 1101 were more than the trees tapped for the same purpose in the previous year, and if so, how it will help to reduce consumption of liquor?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar—(1) A statement showing the particulars is attached.

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